

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-08 MMO-01

OMB-01 /069 W

----- 025596

R 070930Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6699

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

MAC SCOTT AFB

CSAF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CINCPACFLT

CINCUSNAVEUR

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 5506

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, SOPN, XO, UK

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA MEDIA VISIT

REFS: (A) STATE 293579 (NOTAL), (B) SINGAPORE 5477,

(C) MANILA 18880

1. SINCE GOS HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THAT ITS NATIONAL ELECTION
WILL BE HELD DECEMBER 23, DATE PROPOSED REF A FOR MEDIA VISIT
TO DIEGO GARCIA NO LONGER POSES ANY PROBLEM.

2. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE DIFFICULTIES OUTLINED REF C, EMBASSY
IS OPPOSED TO HAVING SINGAPORE SELECTED AS THE SOLE BOARDING
POINT FOR MEDIA REPS TRAVELLING TO DIEGO GARCIA. WE THINK
THIS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY FOCUS TOO MUCH ATTENTION ON SINGAPORE
AND ITS CURRENT AND POTENTIAL USE FOR US MILITARY INTERESTS.
SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT MIGHT ALSO OBJECT.

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3. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT CONSIDER FEASIBILITY OF

ORIGINATING FLIGHT FROM HONG KONG WHICH IS HOME
BASE OF MANY CORRESPONDENTS WHO WOULD TAKE TRIP.

4. AFTER FURTHER REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION WITH
ADMIRAL WEISNER'S PAO, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND VISIT BE
OPENED TO OTHER MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES. WE HAVE AL-
READY NOTED THAT TWO AUSTRALIAN CORRESPONDENTS HAVE
LONG-STANDING APPLICATIONS AND WILL BE SORELY DIS-
APPOINTED IF NOT INCLUDED. OTHERS SUCH AS AFP, KYOTO,
ASAHI, NHK, AUSTRALIAN RADIO, AND FAR EAST ECONOMIC
REVIEW, WILL HAVE LIVELY INTEREST IN TRIP. FINALLY,
INVITATION SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO SINGAPORE STRAITS TIMES,
OUT OF COURTESY IF NOTHING ELSE SINCE SINGAPORE WILL BE
TRANSIT POINT. ACCORDING TO OUR ROUGH CALCULATIONS, ALL
INTERESTED US, UK, AND OTHER MEDIA CAN BE ACCOMMODATED
WITHIN 35 SEAT QUOTA.

5. THIS HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH ADMIRAL WEISNER WHO WILL
COMMENT FURTHER THROUGH DEFENSE PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHANNEL.
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

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